THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 5th July 1952.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at four of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Promotion of Sub-Collectors as District Collectors.

* 15 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the minimum period of service Sub-Collectors have to put in before they are promoted as District Collectors is;

(*b*) whether the rule is strictly followed and whether officers without sufficient revenue experience are promoted as Collectors as significantly pointed out in Gorwala's Report on Public Administration; and

(*c*) whether steps are being taken to avoid such anomalies in the interest of efficiency of public service?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (*a*) to (*c*) No such minimum period has been prescribed. Care is always taken to see that only the more experienced among our officers are promoted as Collectors."

Abolition of races.

* 16 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to stop the Madras Races and ban the publication of all news relating to races in this State; and

(*b*) if so, when the Act and the rules governing the above are likely to be brought into force?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" (*a*) & (*b*) There is no such proposal."

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—" Sir, was there not originally a proposal in this regard when Dr. P. Subbarayan was here? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, there is a confusion between stopping of races and stopping of betting. The stopping of betting was proposed and it has been accepted statutorily and the date has to be fixed. On a future date it may be introduced but there is no question of stopping of

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races. There is also now prevention of publication of betting news outside certain limits. This is even now in force. There is no question of stopping that or the publication of all news relating to races."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Sir, is not the Hon. Minister for Sports, the Raja of Ramnad, in charge of this portfolio? If he is in charge, may I ask why he is not answering this question?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, it is not open to hon. Members to prescribe who should answer but, as the hon. Member apparently wishes to have the information, I will furnish him. It is one thing to be in charge of physical health, sports and activities of that kind on the playing fields and the like, but this is a question of the Police, of the prevention of betting and gaming and so the question has been put to me."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know, Sir, when the Act for the abolition of betting will be enforced and how long it will remain a dead letter as its enforcement has been postponed from time to time?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, there is no such thing here as a dead letter and this is another case of confusion. In the Act it was provided that a date should be fixed for bringing it into force. So the expression 'dead letter' is wrong. The date that has been provisionally fixed by the Government is April of next year."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Sir, is it the policy of Government to encourage horse-racing or put an end to horse-racing?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I am answering off-hand for myself and not for the Government. It is my desire that horse-racing should not be discouraged."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Sir, is it correct that the Hon. the Chief Minister himself gave a grant for a cup for horse-racing in Calcutta?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It is not relevant, Sir, but I think the hon. Member is correctly informed."

Retrenchment in public expenditure.

* 17 *Q*.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have carried out any schemes of retrenchment in State public expenditure since the present Ministry assumed office; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will lay on the table of the House a list of such schemes together with the savings under each head?